

From: Spacey@attbi.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 7:03pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

As an IT (Information Technology) professional for 35 years, I offer the following opinion.

Microsoft has never been an innovator, but always an imitator who targets successful technologies developed by others and then competes with them on the heavily skewed playing field of Microsoft's monopoly control of the PC operating system.

Because of the explosive rate of change in IT hardware so far, there has always been room for innovation by outsiders despite attempts by any entity to control or monopolize any technology. This has created an unprecedented climate of innovation and competition in most IT areas, empowering users with the tools to maximize their output.

However, in the specific field of PC operating systems, this has not happened. Most users have been hobbled with operating systems from Microsoft which are far behind other systems available in ease of use, ease of maintenance, portability, stability, transparency, security, efficiency, etc. This has been possible because of the abuse of the monopoly position that Microsoft has in the PC operating system arena.

If very strong corrective measures are not implemented in the very near future, Microsoft will have achieved a monopoly position over all software used by most PC, Internet, and Communications Device users with the result that competition and thus innovation will be extremely limited, and costs and capabilities will be determined solely by Microsoft instead of the free market.

The current settlement proposal by the USDOJ is not adequate, and should be enhanced to include the original demands made by the prosecutors of this suit.